



**Forester Licensing Board
Minutes – March 15, 2007**

**Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D Office
433 West St. Suite 8, Amherst, MA**

Board Members in attendance: M. Kelty, L. Fish, G. Boyce.

Keith Ross participated in the meeting by phone.

Others in attendance:

Legal Counsel: Nick Vontzalides

Guests: Alan Berman

Scott Sylvester

The chair referred members to the minutes of the January 11, 2007 meeting and requested comments or corrections prior to their approval. *A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. Motion carried with a unanimous vote of members present.*

Public Inquiry- Alan Berman met with the Board to discuss his desire to become licensed. He has been doing some forestry technician work and has worked in the woods as a timber harvester through the years. The FLB explained that the “Grandfathering Provision” for licensing expired on June 29, 2000 and now any applicant must have a minimum of an Associates degree in forestry to be considered. Alan has undergraduate and graduate degrees in unrelated subjects and will look into getting an associates or masters degree in Forestry, so that over time he will qualify for a license.

Scott Sylvester met with the board to talk about the possibility of moving Forester Licensing to the MA Division of Professional Licensure (DPL). Scott was asked by the MA Association of Professional Foresters (MAPF) to head a subcommittee to look into this possibility. Scott says that the DPL oversees a diverse group of professional licenses and believes that they can handle the administrative portion of licensing and work with a board similar to this one to deal with issues like complaints, investigations and license revocations or suspensions.

Nick pointed out that this change would require legislation. Maybe timber harvesters should also be moved at the same time.

Scott and the FLB discussed some of the advantages and disadvantages of this change such as:

Likelihood of increased fees to the license holders

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Opportunity to increase the license term beyond 1 year
Potential to lessen the administrative burden to DCR
Legislative approval process would create an opportunity to correct any issues with the language of the regulations.

Scott will research further and report to MAPF.

Reviewed and approved the new application packages submitted by:

Andrew Bosse
Dana Hachigian
William Van Doren

Reviewed and approved by the majority of the board present the renewal application packages submitted by:

Frank Cover
William Rivers
Keith Ross
Gary Moulton
Nicholas Anzuoni
David Celino
Chris Stone
Kevin Scherer

Next Meeting Date: April 27, 2007

Meeting Adjourned